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Salisbury Public Art Committee to Dedicate Wiley Lash Marker

Life of Salisbury's First African American Mayor to be honored through History & Art Trail Recognition (1908-1995)

Salisbury, NC_June 27, 2008 – The Salisbury Public Art Committee announces the dedication of a Salisbury History and Art Trail Marker to honor the city's first African American Mayor, the Honorable Wiley Immanuel Lash. Mayor Susan W. Kluttz will lead the dedication service, which takes place at the corner of North Main and West Council Streets on Saturday, June 28, 2008. The 9:30 a.m. ceremony honors a lifetime of leadership and community service.

Lash, a strong advocate for peaceful integration during the '60's, served for fifteen years on the local school board and two years as Mayor Pro-Tem prior to becoming Mayor of Salisbury. Through his dedicated community service, Lash served with the Salisbury Citizens Advisory Council, Rowan County Vocational Workshop, Hospice of Rowan County and the Hospice Foundation. Chairman of the Community Service Council, he was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the influential N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

In 1981, Lash was voted unanimously by city council members to become the first black mayor during the city's 228 year history. Speaking during this time, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Dunn lauded Lash as "one of the most distinguished citizens in the history of this city." Upon completion of his mayoral term in 1985, Lash was named Salisbury's first honorary mayor.

Lash was a 1934 Livingstone College graduate and well known for his gentle and caring ways. His dedicated efforts were tireless in support of his fellow man and his life service to the City of Salisbury. His leadership offered a strong sense of history with integrity and wisdom in preparations for the future. Lash was known for his good common sense and judgment, based upon the truth and what was right. Mayor Kluttz shares that she is sincerely honored to participate in the morning dedication service, which commemorates the life of an outstanding man who never forgot how to serve others.

For more information on the Salisbury History and Art Trail Project, please contact Salisbury Urban Design Planner Lynn Raker at 704-638-5235 or via email at lrake@salisburync.gov. The City of Salisbury is an equal employment opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and over 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov.

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